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ITALY'S INCREASING WAR BURDENS.

About twelve years ago, the Italian Government surprised Europe by launching out into the most extravagant expenditure upon the navy. Vast ships of war were constructed, one of which, the "Duilio," attained the size of eleven thousand tons. These vessels were armed with guns of one hundred tons each and, further, were partially covered with armor-plates. They were built on such a scale, and so heavily weighted, that it was feared that complete armor would cause them to sink peacefully to the bottom of the ocean before they would be of the slightest help in active hostilities.

A competent native authority has just written an article, in the *Naples Courier*, in which he shows that this new fleet, which was a source of such pride to its originators at the time, *has already become antiquated and comparatively valueless*, owing to the advances in naval construction subsequently made by other nations. Had the Italians maintained cool heads upon their shoulders, and kept their money in their pockets, instead of squandering untold millions upon these huge vessels, they would be now in an incomparably stronger position, even from a naval point of view. For they would be able to avail themselves of the latest improvements in construction instead of being limited to the humiliating process of patching up their almost obsolete ships.

The efficiency of the latter has vanished, but the debt and the outlay remain, either actually or in their results of failure. How many millions has England, also, wasted similarly, at various times! This Italian experience, however, is so specially instructive, that it should be widely pondered by Englishmen and impressed upon their rulers; for, too often, modern British ships of war are speedily found to be utter failures. Thus the "Hood," of 91 guns, constructed in 1849, the "Encounter," 1970 tons, built in 1873, and a whole category of others, have already had to be sold or broken up, at great loss to the taxpayers, though probably at great gain to many dockyard officials and Government contractors.

The mortgages on Italian land amount to eight hundred million pounds, or more than the vast National Debt of Great Britain. The total estimated value of the property on which these mortgages are effected only exceeds that amount by 160 million pounds, so that the country is mortgaged "up to the hilt," whilst the rate of interest on the debt is about 8 per cent.! Hence it is no wonder that misery, vice, and murder abound in Italy. But the chief cause of all this woe is the madness of yielding to naval and military ambition and panic-mongering folly.

And the end is not yet. The Italian Government is still incurring further outlay upon iron-clads and armies, and swelling, as the frog in the fable, in emulation of the bullock-like proportions of the armaments of gigantic Russia and Germany.—*Herald of Peace*.

VICTORIAN WARS AND BRITISH TAX-PAYERS.

The following table of the special cost of recent British wars during the reign of Queen Victoria, in addition to the regular annual expenditure on the army and navy appears in the *Secular Almanac*:

1838—1843	Insurrection in Canada	£2,096,046
1840—1843	First Chinese War	2,201,028
1848—1853	Kaffir War	2,060,000
1854—1856	Russian War: Total Naval and Military Expenditure	116,053,151

1857—8	Persian Expedition	900,000
"	War in China	590,693
1858—9	"	391,943
"	War with Russia	390,580
1859—60	War with China	858,057
1860—1	"	3,043,896
1861—2	"	1,230,000
"	War with Russia	53,431
1865—6	New Zealand War	764,829
1867—8	Abyssinian Expedition	2,000,000
1868—9	"	5,000,000
1869—70	"	1,300,000
1870—1	War in Europe	1,350,000
1871—2	"	101,097
1873—4	Ashantee Expedition	800,000
1874—5	"	125,000
1877—8	Russo-Turkish War	3,500,000
1878—9	Abyssinian Expedition	17,865
"	War in South Africa	1,844,000
"	Russo-Turkish War	2,624,968
1879—80	War in South Africa	2,772,720
"	" Griqualand West	222,200
"	Sikukam Expedition	250,000
1880—1	Transvaal	656,000
"	Afghan War	500,000
1881—2	Transvaal	1,769,500
"	Zulu, etc., Wars	135,000
"	Afghan War	500,000
1882—3	Egyptian Expedition	3,895,500
"	Afghan War	500,000
"	Transvaal	14,000
1883—4	Afghan War	1,000,000
"	Egypt	381,750
1884—5	Afghan War	250,000
"	Relief of General Gordon	300,000
"	Nile Expedition	1,324,000
"	Soudan	964,000
"	Bechuanaland	725,000
1885—6	Afghan War	250,000
"	Naval and Military Vote and Credit	9,451,000

THE NEW WAR-NAVY.

The tremendous efforts making for war vessels, would seem to indicate either that the American nation is afraid of other nations, or wants to capture the globe.

With no civil war for a quarter of a century and no foreign war for three-quarters of a century, all at once we must spend for a war-navy \$60,000,000, which peace has been quietly putting into the treasury. These are the sums appropriated thus far: Ironclads—to complete the monitors *Puritan*, *Miantonomah*, *Amphitrite*, *Monadnock* and *Terror*, \$3,178,046; Texas, \$2,376,000; Maine, \$2,844,503; Coast Defence and Torpedo, \$2,000,000; armored cruiser not yet begun, \$3,500,000; total, \$13,898,549. Unarmored vessels and cruisers—Chicago, \$889,000; Boston, \$619,000; Atlanta, \$617,000; Dolphin, \$315,000; Newark, \$1,248,000; Charleston, \$1,017,000; Baltimore, \$1,325,000; Philadelphia, \$1,350,000; San Francisco, \$1,428,000; Yorktown, \$455,000; Petrel, \$247,000; Concord, \$490,000; Vesuvius, \$350,000; torpedo boat, \$87,750; practice vessel, \$260,000; Cruiser 6, \$1,800,000; Cruiser 7, \$1,100,000; Cruiser 8, \$1,100,000; Cruiser 9, \$700,000; Cruiser 10, \$700,000; Cruiser 11, \$700,000; total, \$17,487,750; grand total, \$31,386,299. The last seven vessels have not yet been begun.—*Peacemaker*.